



The Rooster Crows

August 2007

A Newsletter of the Catholic Cursillo of the Diocese of Knoxville, www.KnoxvilleCursillo.org

Vacations—What an experience—Fr. Joseph Brando



Vacations, for me, have always been wonderful learning experiences. Those who know me are aware I enjoy exotic adventures. Trips to Europe, the Holy Land, Peru, Egypt, and China have taught me a lot about history, geography and people. This year I took the opportunity to visit another faraway place, Thailand.

Thanks to Brother John Howard of the Alexian Brothers who got me in touch with a Thai priest, I was able to make contact with local people and begin my lessons for the summer.

My initial desire was to find out about how the Church evangelizes in a country with so very few Christians. The answer amazed me. Gradually, I came to realize I was discovering the Cursillo method working on a national scale. Simply but very effectively, the Catholic community was being friends, making friends and bringing their friends to Christ.

Christianity first came to Siam (now Thailand) in the 1500's by means of Portuguese explorers and traders who brought their priests with them. Very soon a parish church was built on the outskirts of the capital at the time, Ayutheya. I had the opportunity to stay at the parish a few days. After the Portuguese beginnings, the French came by means of a fortuitous tragedy. The French missionary who founded the Church in Vietnam had returned to his home country to get more supplies for his work. His return to

Vietnam was dashed by a severe storm that rendered his ship unfit to sail. It limped to shore in what is now



Thailand. Bishop de la Mort, instead of proceeding on to his old mission, stayed and built up the Church in Siam. His methodology is working still.



The method is similar to what was used in Tennessee. It centered on Catholic Education. The Church established schools everywhere it built a parish. They encouraged the Buddhists (the vast majority of the people) and others to attend. In visiting three of those schools I found that although the average attendance of Catholics at Mass was 200 or so, the attendance at the schools averaged over 2700. The schools offer the very best in education where children can learn the latest and greatest ideas the world can offer. Any parents who want their children to succeed in life will try to get them into Catholic school. In that way, the Church has proven itself a friend to the Thais allowing them to enter the 21st century with all the educational advantages of first world countries. In such a way, Thais have come to respect Catholics and accept them into their hearts. We are not strangers. In fact the current and the preceding prime ministers of the country are products of Catholic education although their politics are very different.

Recently, the government approached the Bishops of Thailand with a request. They told the bishops of their daunting national problem. Their state of business morality is very low. They asked the Catholic Church to be responsible for teaching the country ethics. It looks like the Cursillo method, in effect for centuries, is working on a mega level. It is now entering the third phase of bringing our friends, the Thai people to Christ.

DeColores!



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Vacant Secretariat Positions



The Pre-Cursillo Secretariat Position will become available at the end of the current year. Carol Rummel has held this position and will be stepping down at the end of her term in December 2007.

Co-Spanish School of Leader Position was vacated when Mike Smith moved out of state.

Do you feel called to either of these two positions? If you are interested or have any questions please contact Jim Heath at jimheath@charter.net or 931-788-2569 by October 1st.

Elections will be held at the Oct. 13th Secretariat meeting.

My thanks go out to Ileana and Andreas Bachman and to Juan Rivera of Our Lady of Fatima parish for their assistance in translating the articles for the Rooster Crows into Spanish. I could not do it with out you. If anyone else is interested in assisting in this task, please contact me at feltz@nxs.net. Thank you for using your talents to reach out to others in our Cursillo Community.


 Please join us as we pray for the repose of the souls of our fellow cursillistas during the past year. Joe Turczyn and Roberta "Bobbie" Worcester.
 Please keep their families in your prayers.


2007 Upcoming Calendar Events

Secretariat Meeting 10 am—2 pm
Oct 13, St Thomas the Apostle

Region IV Fall Encounter
October 26-28 Bellville, Illinois

Parish
Representatives
TBA (October)

School of Leaders 10 am—2 pm
Aug 11, St. Augustine, Signal Mountain
Nov 3, St. Thomas the Apostle, Lenoir
City

Women's Weekend
Sept 13-16
Apison Retreat Center
No Mass prior to Closing
3 pm—Commissioning
of the Spanish Men's
Team

Men's Weekend
Sept 27-30
Apison Retreat Center
No Mass prior to Closing
2:30 pm—Grand Ultreya
10th year celebration

Grand Ultreya
September 30—2:30 pm
Apison Retreat Center

Spanish School of Leaders 10 am—2 pm
Aug. 18 — St. Therese of Lisieux Cleveland

Spanish Men's Weekend # 1
Oct. 18 - 21—Apison Retreat Center